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## NEWS RELEASE

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**MUSKOGEE, OKLAHOMA** - Sheldon J. Sperling, United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Oklahoma, announced that JOHN AUGUST PAYNE, age 35, of Haskell, Oklahoma, was sentenced for Possession of Stolen Firearms.

"PAYNE was sentenced to 110 months imprisonment, 36 months supervised release, and ordered to pay a Special Assessment of \$100.00," stated U.S. Attorney Sheldon J. Sperling.

"Charges arose from an investigation by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, the Muskogee County Sheriff's Office and the Haskell Police Department. On the 8<sup>th</sup> day of January, 2007, PAYNE possessed numerous firearms, knowing that the firearms were stolen," stated U.S. Attorney Sheldon J. Sperling.

"On January 8, 2007, a Haskell Police officer performed a traffic stop on a vehicle belonging to co-defendant, JOHN KEVIN BLAIR, and being driven by PAYNE. Pursuant to policy, the truck was inventoried and impounded. During the inventory, handguns were found in the cab of the truck," recalled U.S. Attorney Sperling.

"The Honorable Ronald A. White, District Judge in the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Oklahoma, presided over today's sentencing. Judge White ordered the defendant remain in custody of the U.S. Marshal to begin serving his sentence. Assistant United States Attorney Rob Wallace represented the government."

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